

ADL is desperate to salvage OSI fiasco

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), which is under criminal investigation on the West Coast for spying on American citizens on behalf of the Israeli and South African governments, may also be implicated in death threats against John Demjanjuk. The 73-year-old retired Cleveland auto worker, whose war crimes conviction as the Treblinka concentration camp mass murderer "Ivan the Terrible" was overturned by the Israeli Supreme Court on July 29, is still battling to return to America.

On Sept. 2, the president of the Israeli Supreme Court will decide whether to free Demjanjuk or allow further appeals on a series of petitions by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, the World Jewish Congress, the Kach Movement, and several Holocaust survivors to have him tried on new war crimes charges.

If Demjanjuk is set free, he will be allowed to return to the United States on a "parole" visa arranged by Rep. James Traficant (D-Ohio) with the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. The Justice Department Office of Special Investigations (OSI), the "Nazi-hunting" unit that framed up Demjanjuk beginning in 1978 on the basis of Soviet KGB-fabricated evidence, is still trying to block his return to the United States. However, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio, which is reviewing the Demjanjuk case and is probing OSI "fraud upon the court," has issued an order forbidding the Justice Department from barring his entry.

Both the ADL and the OSI are painfully aware of the implications of Demjanjuk's return to Cleveland and his exoneration by the Sixth Circuit. Former Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.), in a commentary in the Aug. 19 *Washington Post*, complained: "We cannot let the Demjanjuk case be used to destroy the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations and to stop the search for other Nazi war criminals. That search must continue. . . . Allowing them to escape justice would desecrate the memory of the millions who died and would encourage participants in present-day genocide to continue."

Holtzman was the author of the 1978 Holtzman Amendment which banned any Nazi war criminals from entering the United States, and was the architect of the creation of the OSI in 1979.

OSI attorneys are working with the ADL, the World Jewish Congress (headed by ADL National Vice Chairman Edgar Bronfman), and the Los Angeles Wiesenthal Center

to stall Demjanjuk's release from Israeli custody in the hopes that the Sixth Circuit or the U.S. Supreme Court will reverse the decision to allow Demjanjuk's return home. Meanwhile, the same outfits are preparing contingency plans for Demjanjuk's possible murder. On Aug. 19, the same day that Holtzman was arguing on the OSI's behalf in the *Washington Post*, Kach Movement spokesman Baruch Kerzel told Radio Israel: "We will make justice. Demjanjuk one day will be killed by good Jews and not by corrupt Jews like we have in the High Court. . . . He'll be dead in a short period — if not in Israel, somewhere else — but he will be dead."

Kerzel's words cannot be dismissed. The Kach Movement is the successor to the Jewish Defense League, founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane. According to Kahane biographer Robert Friedman, the JDL was from the outset run by the ADL and the Israeli Mossad. JDL members were provided with sophisticated terrorist training by Israeli intelligence, and were provided with cash via the longtime head of the ADL branch in Brooklyn, New York. The ADL official, Bernard Deutch, coordinated JDL terror targeting with two Mossad officials, Yitzhak Shamir (later prime minister of Israel) and Geula Cohen (a current member of Knesset), according to Friedman's biography.

This ADL-JDL combination was behind the 1985 bombing and assassination spree in which two prominent figures, Tscherim Soobzokov and Alex Odeh (the head of the southern California chapter of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee), were killed. Soobzokov had been targeted by Holtzman, the *New York Times*, the ADL, and the OSI with phony Nazi war crimes charges. A Circassian-American who worked for U.S. intelligence in Jordan in the postwar era, Soobzokov had established some of the earliest back-channels to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). When he sued the *New York Times* and scribbler Howard Blum for libel and won, the OSI was forced to drop its fabricated war crimes case. However, the ADL-backed Jewish Defense Organization, led by Mordechai Levy, staged noisy demonstrations outside Soobzokov's Paterson, New Jersey home; several days later, Soobzokov was killed by a sophisticated bomb planted on his front porch. The hit squad suspected in the Soobzokov case was led by Robert Manning, a longtime member of the JDL who had moved to Israel and joined the Kach Movement; Manning, who was recently extradited to California on a different murder charge, is also widely suspected of being responsible for the 1985 assassination of Odeh.

Already, several ad hoc "Holocaust survivor" groups have announced that they will stage demonstrations outside of Demjanjuk's home in Cleveland should he be allowed to return to the United States to participate in the Sixth Circuit appeal process. According to sources at the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati, security at the federal courthouse has been stepped up even though the JDL-Kach has not made any threats against the court — "yet."